



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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**FEDERAL JUDGE IN WACO SENTENCES ROWLETT MAN TO TEN YEARS
IMPRISONMENT ON DRUG AND MONEY LAUNDERING CHARGES**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 28-year-old Phong Nguyen of Rowlett, Texas, was sentenced to ten years in federal prison for conspiracy to commit money laundering and conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute methamphetamine.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Walter S. Smith, Jr. also ordered Nguyen, owner of Audio Innovations in Plano, Texas, to pay a \$1,000 fine and be placed under supervised release for a period of eight years after completing his prison term.

Nguyen was convicted by a federal jury on March 3, 2004. The jury found that Nguyen participated in a large-scale methamphetamine distribution scheme organized by co-defendants 28-year-old Rudy Ayala of Dallas, Texas, and 29-year-old Mexican National Felipe Dominguez. Evidence presented during trial revealed that Nguyen, using drug proceeds provided by Ayala to disguise true ownership, purchased three vehicles. In addition, Nguyen constructed hidden compartments in four other vehicles. Those compartments were used in part to transport and distribute over 1,100 pounds of methamphetamine throughout the Southwestern United States. Finally, over \$100,000 in drug proceed—provided by Ayala—was laundered through Nguyen's business.

Ayala is currently serving a 135-month federal prison sentence; Dominguez, a 87-month federal prison sentence. Ayala was also ordered to pay a \$3.5 million monetary judgement.

Nguyen's sentencing is the 13th resulting from an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation conducted by the Waco Treasury Task Force consisting of the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Irving Police Department, Woodway Police Department and McLennan County Sheriffs Department. Assistant United States Attorney Jake Snyder prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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